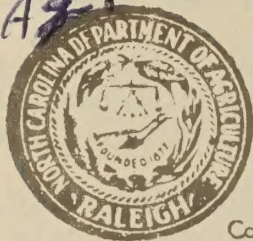


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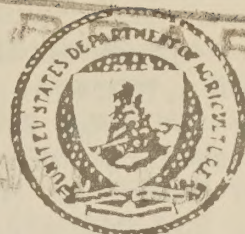
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



NO. 205

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 16, 1956

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 3 POINTS

The all 'Farm Products' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets declined 3 points during the month ended March 15, 1956. The March index of 284 compares with an index of 298 a year earlier and 296 on March 15, 1954.

A sharp decrease in egg prices was mostly responsible for lowering the poultry index to 194 between mid-February and mid-March.

Lower hog, poultry, egg, and milk prices were primarily responsible for the decline in the Livestock and Livestock Products

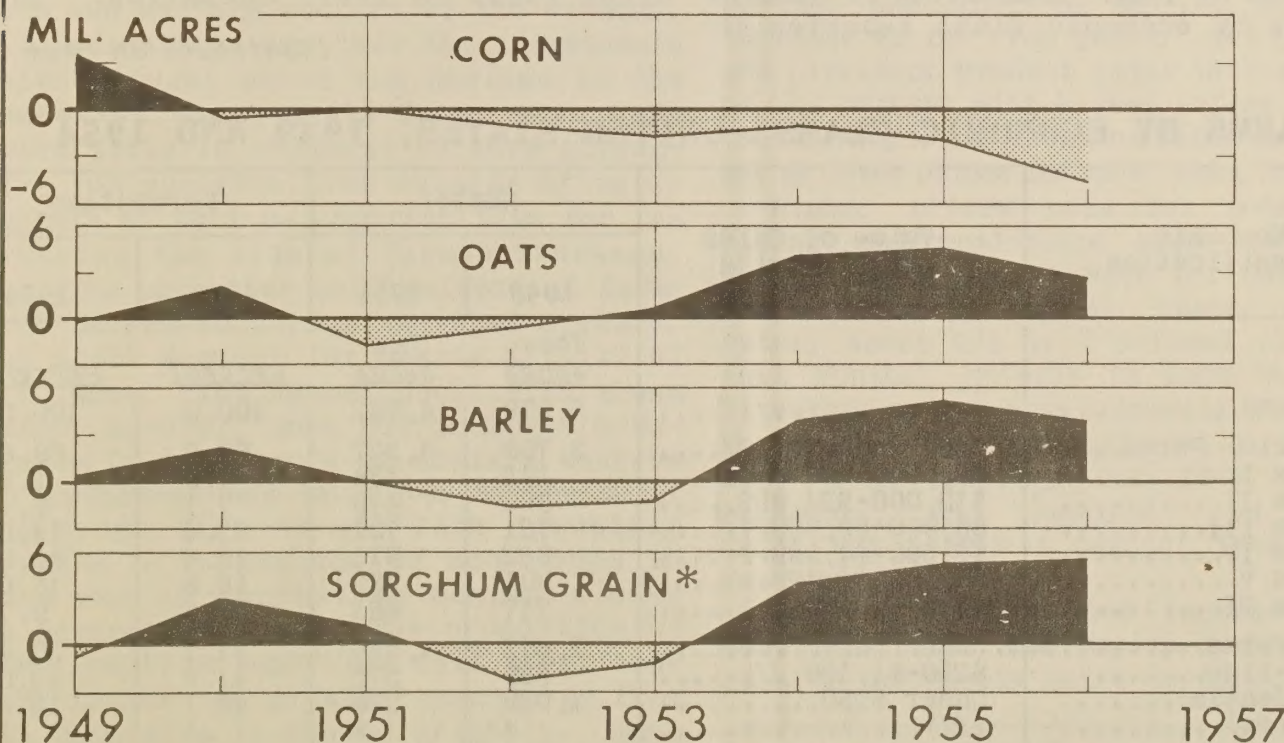
(Continued on Page 3)

SPECIAL NOTICE

Owing to an unexpected and prolonged delay in the delivery of paper from mills, the publication of recent issues of the FARM REPORT has been necessarily delayed. In the event our order is partially filled, it may be necessary to reduce the number of copies normally printed. Anyone failing to receive a particular issue in which they need for reference should advise this office accordingly.

Change from 1949 - 53 av.

U. S. FEED GRAIN ACREAGE PLANTED



* HARVESTED FOR GRAIN

1956 ACREAGES BASED ON MARCH 1 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

FEWER AND LARGER FARMS SHOWN IN LATE SUMMARY OF U. S. CENSUS

Farms in the United States now number 4,782,000, according to the summary of the 1954 Census of Agriculture released recently by the U. S. Department of Commerce. This represents a decline of 600,000 since 1950. The number of farms declined from 1950 to 1954 in every State except Florida, and in all except 180 of the 3,067 counties in the United States. There are now fewer farms than at any time since 1890.

The general direction of change in farm size from 1950 to 1954 has been a continuation of a quarter century trend toward fewer and larger farms. In general this change from 1950 to 1954 represents a rational and desirable adjustment on the part of farm people to: (1) Increased number and variety of nonfarm employment opportunities available in an expanding economy, (2) technological developments that enable a given labor force to handle an increased quantity of the other resources used in farming, and (3) technological developments that have increased yields per acre and per unit of livestock.

One of the most significant developments revealed by the preliminary census releases is the change in the numbers of farms by economic classes. The economic classification was used for the first time in the census of 1950 and continued in the census of 1954. Comparison of numbers of farms by economic class reported in

the two censuses provides a basis for analyzing some of the fundamental changes that have taken place in farming in the last 5 years.

As shown in the accompanying table, farms are divided into two major categories -- commercial and other. The commercial farms are those operated as business units for the primary purpose of providing the major source of income to the operator families. Commercial farms are divided into economic classes on the basis of the value of farm sales. Other farms include part-time and residential units on which farm sales are, for the most part, supplementary to income from nonfarm jobs and businesses.

Commercial farms have decreased by almost 400,000 since 1950. Most of this decrease was among the smaller size groups. Class V and VI farms -- those with gross farms sales of less than \$2,500 -- showed a combined decrease of 378,000. There were also decreases throughout the medium size ranges. The only economic classes which gained in number were the two largest, Class I (sales of \$25,000 and over) and Class II (sales of \$10,000 to \$24,999).

Class I farms are characterized by large investments in land, buildings and machinery, a high degree of specialization, and considerable use of hired labor in their operation. They

(Continued on Page 3)

FARMS BY ECONOMIC CLASS, UNITED STATES, 1949 AND 1954

Economic Classification	Value of Sales Class Limits	Number		Percentage	
		1949	1954	1949	1954
		<i>Thou-</i> <i>sands</i>	<i>Thou-</i> <i>sands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Farms.....		5,379	4,782	100.0	100.0
Commercial Farms....	\$250 and over <u>1/</u>	3,706	3,327	68.9	69.6
Class I.....	\$25,000 and over.....	103	134	1.9	2.8
Class II.....	\$10,000-\$24,999.....	381	449	7.1	9.4
Class III.....	\$5,000-\$9,999.....	721	707	13.4	14.8
Class IV.....	\$2,500-\$4,999.....	882	811	16.4	16.9
Class V.....	\$1,200-\$2,499.....	901	763	16.8	16.0
Class VI.....	\$250-\$1,199 <u>1/</u>	717	462	13.3	9.7
Other Farms.....		1,673	1,456	31.1	30.4
Part-time.....	\$250-\$1,199 <u>1/</u>	639	575	11.9	12.0
Residential.....	Under \$250.....	1,029	879	19.1	18.3
Abnormal.....	(<u>2/</u>).....	4	3	.1	.1

1/ Farms with sales of \$250 to \$1,199 were classified as part-time if the operator worked off-farm as much as 100 days or other income of the operator family exceeded farm sales.

2/ Public and private institutional farms, experiment stations, etc.

FARMS SHOWN IN U. S. CENSUS

(Continued)

accounted for more than a fourth of the farm sales in 1950. The number of these farms has increased by about 30,000 since 1950, but they account for only 4 percent of the commercial farms.

In comparison with nonfarm business units, however, the majority of even these largest farms are of modest size. Comparable data for 1954 are not yet available, but in 1950 average gross sales per Class I farm were \$56,000, and only 5 regular workers were hired per farm. These facts hardly portend "factories in the field."

The medium and large commercial family farms (Classes II, III, and IV) still comprise the bulk of commercial agriculture. In terms of numbers, their relative importance has increased from about half to nearly three-fifths of the commercial farms. Some growth in size among these farms as a group is indicated by the increases in the number of Class II and decreases in the number of Class III and IV farms.

Class V and VI farms represent the small, low-production, low-income commercial farms and cropper units that have been disappearing so rapidly from American agriculture in recent years. The substantial decrease in the number of these farms is associated closely with recent growth and development in both farm and nonfarm sectors of the economy. All indications are that the adjustments which brought about the decline in the number of these small farms were made voluntarily in response to more attractive job opportunities outside of agriculture as well as opportunities for increasing the size of farm businesses.

The part-time and residential farms also decreased during the last 5 years, but still account for nearly a third of all farms. The actual decline in these farms, however, does not indicate a decrease in importance of nonfarm sources of employment and income to agriculture. The proportion of all farm operators working off-farm 100 or more days in 1954 was 28 percent as compared with 24 percent in 1950. The proportion of farm families reporting that their non-farm income was greater than sales from the farm also increased slightly. Some of these farms have increased their sales and thus were classified as commercial farms.

In the economic classification all

farms with sales of as much as \$1,200 are considered to be commercial, irrespective of off-farm employment or other income. It is apparent, however, that increasing numbers of the smaller commercial farms (with sales of \$1,200 or more) are becoming highly dependent upon wages and salaries in nonfarm jobs and businesses.

Agricultural Situation, March 1956.

N. C. PRICES *(Continued)*

Index.

The All Crops index was unchanged from the previous month.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers at 82 was 1 point above the mid-February ratio.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX AND PARITY INDEX BOTH UP PARITY RATIO 1 POINT HIGHER

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 2 percent (4 points) during the month ended in mid-March. At 230 percent of its 1910-14 average the March index compares with 226 in February and 243 in March 1955. Most crops increased during the month, with higher prices for tomatoes, potatoes, and cotton making the most important contributions to the 3½ percent increase in the Crop Index. The Livestock and Livestock Product Index increased half of one percent with higher prices for beef cattle, hogs, and chickens being nearly offset by lower prices for milk, eggs, and calves.

Higher prices paid for both family living and production goods raised the Parity Index (Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) about 2/3 of 1 percent (2 points) this month. Upturns in food and feeder livestock prices were primarily responsible for this rise although small increases also were recorded for farm supplies, machinery, and tractors. At 282 the index was nearly 1 percent lower than a year earlier.

Farm product prices increased somewhat more than the Parity Index thereby raising the Parity Ratio to 82.

Milk production in the first two months of 1956 was 7 percent above a year earlier and seems on the way to a new record for 1956.

MOST FEED PRICES UNCHANGED

Prices Paid by North Carolina farmers for most feed items were generally steady during the month ended March 15, 1956. All High Protein Feeds, except cottonseed meal, remained on the same level as last month. Average prices paid for 16 percent protein dairy feed corn meal, and laying mash were below the previous month.

All the local market feed price ratios were relatively stable except the egg-feed ratio. The lower egg-feed ratio was due to the dip in prices received for eggs.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	N. C.		U. S.	
	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956
	<u>DOLLARS</u>			
Mixed Dairy Feed Under 29% Protein				
All.....	3.80	3.75	3.65	3.65
16% Protein.....	3.65	3.60	3.60	3.60
18% Protein.....	3.80	3.80	3.61	3.60
20% Protein.....	3.95	3.95	3.83	3.81
24% Protein.....	4.00	4.00	3.99	3.94
29% & Over.....	4.40	4.40	4.26	4.23
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed Meal....	-	-	4.32	4.20
Soybean Meal....	4.00	4.00	3.92	3.84
Cottonseed Meal.	3.45	3.40	3.76	3.72
Meat Scrap.....	4.50	4.50	4.46	4.47
Grain By-Products.				
Bran.....	3.30	3.30	2.87	2.90
Middlings.....	3.50	3.50	2.96	2.97
Corn Meal.....	4.00	3.80	3.33	3.33
Corn Gluten.....	-	-	3.26	3.23
Poultry Feed				
Laying Mash.....	4.70	4.65	4.36	4.36
Scratch Grain...	4.05	4.05	3.93	3.95
Broiler Growing Mash.....	4.85	4.85	4.81	4.81
Poultry Ration 1/.	3.77	3.75	3.40	3.42

1/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	N. C.		U. S.
		FEB. 15 1956	MARCH 15 1956	MARCH 15 1956
		<u>DOLLARS</u>		
CORN.....	BU.	1.16	1.20	1.20
WHEAT.....	BU.	1.98	2.00	1.97
OATS.....	BU.	.82	.81	.618
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.10	1.15	.925
RYE.....	BU.	1.90	2.00	.985
SORGHUM GRAINS...	CWT.	2.05	2.05	1.84
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.16	2.22	2.38
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.136	.133	.117
COTTON.....	LB.	.310	.310	.316
COTTONSEED.....	TON	38.00	38.00	46.80
WOOL.....	LB.	.44	.44	.399
HOGS.....	CWT.	12.60	12.20	12.30
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	11.60	11.80	14.40
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	18.70	19.70	16.70
SHEEP.....	CWT.	5.00	5.00	6.28
LAMBS.....	CWT.	18.30	18.60	18.10
MILK COWS.....	HD.	98.00	100.00	150.00
CHICKENS, ALL.....	LB.	.219	.211	.216
COM'L BROILERS...	LB.	.220	.210	.219
TURKEYS.....	LB.	.32	.320	.321
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.470	.379	.396
MILK, WHLSE. 1/.	CWT.	5.80 2/	5.60 3/	3.96
RETAIL 4/.....	QT.	.218	.216	.208
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.49	.49	.57
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.65	-	1.34
SWEETPOTATOES...	BU.	2.60	2.55	2.09
APPLES, COM'L....	BU.	2.90	2.90	2.74
LESPEDEZA SEED...	CWT.	10.00	9.80	8.56
KOREAN.....	CWT.	8.40	8.30	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	11.80	11.50	-
COM. & TENN.....	CWT.	16.00	16.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	14.80	14.70	-
HAY, ALL BALED 5/	TON	30.40	29.90	20.60
ALFALFA HAY.....	TON	37.60	37.00	22.20
LESPEDEZA HAY...	TON	32.50	32.10	25.30
SOYBEAN AND COWPEA HAY.....	TON	29.50	28.40	27.90
PEANUT VINE.....	TON	21.90	20.90	22.20
OTHER.....	TON	28.00	27.90	-

1/ Estimated average prices for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

2/ Revised.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ Sold by farmers direct to consumers.

5/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

LOCAL MARKET FEED PRICE RATIOS

POULTRY FEED PRICE RATIO 1/	N. C.		U. S.	
	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956
Egg-Feed (Poultry Ration)	12.5	10.1	11.8	11.6
Farm Chicken Feed 2/	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.9
Broiler-Feed (Broiler Mash)	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.6
Turkey Feed 2/	8.5	8.5	9.2	9.4

1/ Pounds of feed equal in value to one dozen eggs, one pound farm chickens, one pound broilers and one pound turkeys.

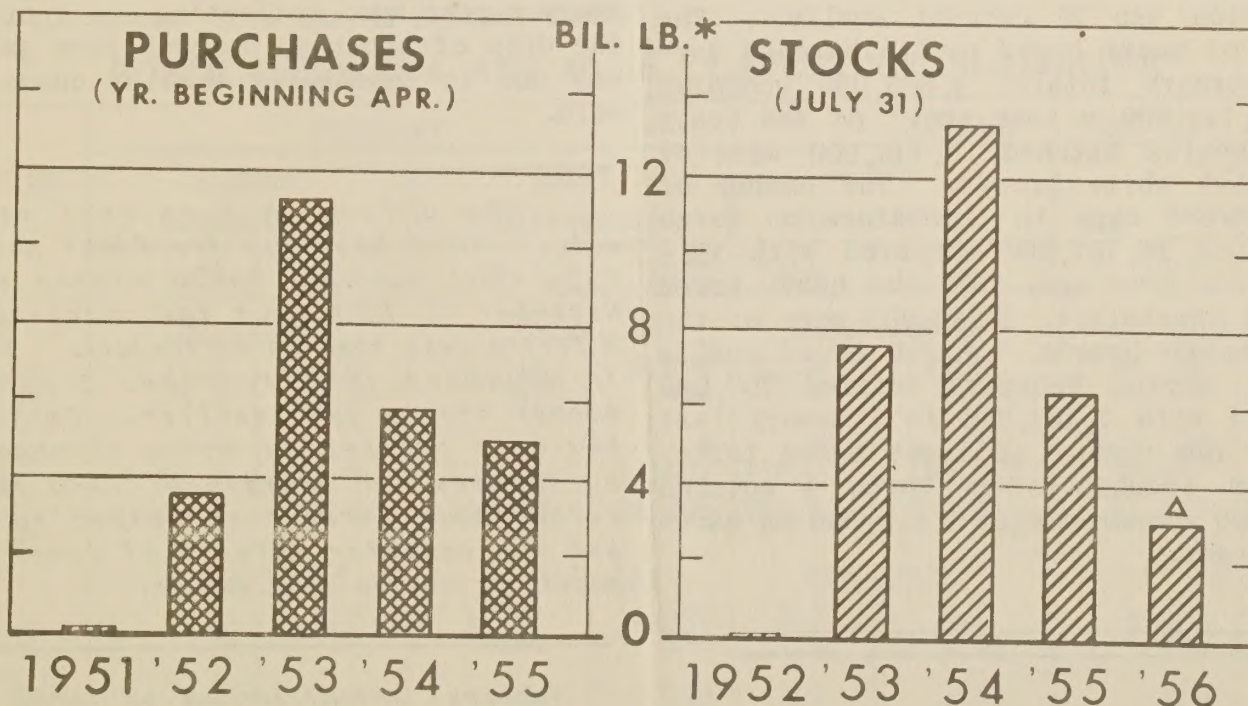
2/ Poultry ration.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1955	Mar. 15 1954	Mar. 15 1953
<i>NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS</i>					
All Farm Products.....	287	284	298	296	292
All Crops.....	306	306	317	310	304
Tobacco.....	386	386	391	382	363
Cotton.....	256	256	273	277	276
Oil Bearing.....	306	302	347	319	312
Grains.....	146	149	183	183	190
Commercial Vegetables.....	221	220	255	243	361
Fruits.....	372	372	308	317	288
Livestock and Livestock Products...	221	208	230	244	250
Meat Animals.....	200	198	235	320	289
Poultry.....	221	194	227	208	232
Dairy.....	240	237	230	231	244
Ratio of Prices Rec'd to Paid*.....	102	101	105	105	104
<i>UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS</i>					
Prices Received.....	226	230	243	255	263
Prices Paid, Int., Taxes &					
Wage Rates.....	280	282	284	283	282
Parity Ratio.....	81	82	86	90	93

* Ratio of N. C. Prices received to U. S. Prices paid.

CCC PURCHASES AND STOCKS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS



FEBRUARY CHICK PRODUCTION

The output of chicks by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during February was estimated at 9,522,000 chicks. This February output was 22.7 percent above the output for February a year earlier and 55 percent above the 1950-54 average February production of 6,142,000 chicks.

Chick production during the first two months of 1956 has totaled 17,722,000 -- about 30 percent above the 13,610,000 chicks produced during the same period of 1955.

For the Nation, chick production during February was the largest of record for the month. The number of chicks produced totaled 198,171,000 compared with 163,360,000 in February last year and the 1950-54 average of 170,341,000. Of the chicks hatched in February, 112,194,000 were for commercial broiler production and 85,977,000 were for other purposes.

The demand for chicks for both broiler production and egg production is relatively strong and a larger hatch in March is in prospect. The number of eggs in incubators on March 1 for broilers was 23 percent larger and for non-broilers it was 10 percent larger than a year ago.

TURKEY OPERATIONS

Heavy breed poult production in February was 75 percent larger than in February last year while light breed poult production was 28 percent smaller. The number of heavy breed poults hatched during February totaled 4,800,000 compared with 2,744,000 a year ago. Of the heavy breed poults hatched, 1,119,000 were of the heavy white breeds. The number of heavy breed eggs in incubators on March 1 totaled 16,187,000 compared with 12,109,000 a year ago. Of the heavy breed eggs in incubators, 2,982,000 were of the heavy white breeds. Light breed poults hatched during February totaled 797,000 compared with 1,104,000 in February last year. The number of light breed turkey eggs in incubators on March 1 totaled 1,380,000 compared with 1,699,000 on March 1 last year.

If farmers carry out their March 1 planting intentions, the total acreage planted to feed grains in 1956 will be reduced about 6 million acres, or 4 percent, from the high level reached in 1955.

U. S. FARM INCOME

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings for the first 2 months of 1956 are tentatively estimated at 4.1 billion dollars, 5 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1955. The decline was due to lower average prices. Receipts from livestock and products were about 2.3 billion dollars, down 5 percent because of lower prices of meat animals. Receipts from dairy and poultry products were up because of slightly higher average prices and an increase in milk production. Crop receipts for the 2-month period were 1.8 billion dollars, down 5 percent from a year ago. Smaller marketings of Burley and some other types of tobacco held tobacco receipts down about 40 percent below last year. Lower average prices also resulted in declines for wheat and vegetables.

Total cash receipts in February are tentatively estimated at 1.8 billion dollars, 24 percent below January. The drop in cash receipts was due to smaller marketings, partly because of a shorter month. The decline of 4 percent from February 1955, however, resulted from lower average prices. Receipts from livestock and products, estimated at 1.1 billion dollars, were down 10 percent from January, mostly because of smaller marketings. The 5-percent decline from February 1955 was due to lower average prices. Crop receipts of 0.7 billion dollars were down 4 percent from February a year ago, reflecting lower prices. The drop of about 40 percent from January was due to seasonally smaller quantities sold.

The upturn in farm real estate values which began in the first half of 1954 continued in the 4 months ended November 1, 1955, but the increase was a little less than in March-July. Values in November 1955 averaged 5 percent higher than a year earlier. Continued business prosperity and a strong demand by farmers for additional land to enlarge their farms have helped to offset the expected effects of lower commodity prices on land values.

Farmers' intentions as of early March indicated a new high in soybean plantings and some increase over last year in flaxseed acreage. With export demand strong, prices for oilseeds have moved up sharply from the low points last fall.

FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER SECOND HIGHEST OF RECORD

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during February amounted 21,908,000 pounds liveweight. This production was the second highest for the month on record, falling short of the record high established in February 1955 by only 455,000 pounds, or two percent. Although the total liveweight of hogs slaughtered was some greater than it was a year earlier, the increase was more than offset by a reduction in the weight of cattle and calves slaughtered. Liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered remained unchanged. By species, the total liveweights of animals slaughtered during the second month of this year was as follows: Cattle -- 8,609,000 pounds, calves -- 683,000 pounds, hogs -- 12,607,000 pounds, and sheep and lambs -- 9,000 pounds.

UNITED STATES

Commercial slaughter plants produced 2,191 million pounds of red meat during February. February output was 12 percent below the January volume of 2,477 million pounds but was 18 percent above the 1,863 million pounds produced in February 1955.

Meat production for the first two months this year totaled 4,668 million pounds, 15 percent more than the 4,059 million pounds for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Cattle slaughter in February totaled 1,998,600 head. This was 11 percent fewer

than the January number of 2,255,600 but 11 percent more than the 1,802,600 head slaughtered in February 1955. Beef output for the month totaled 1,087 million pounds; off 12 percent from a month earlier but up 18 percent from a year earlier.

February veal production totaled 108 million pounds, 6 percent less than January but 8 percent greater than the same month a year ago. Calf slaughter was estimated at 946,400 head. This was 2 percent below the February estimate of 968,000 but 5 percent above the 898,000 estimated for February 1955.

The number of hogs killed in February totaled 7,116,700 head. Slaughter was 12 percent less than the January estimate of 8,060,200 head but 22 percent above the estimate of 5,824,700 head for February a year ago. Pork production in February totaled 932 million pounds, 12 percent less than the previous month but 20 percent more than the same month the previous year.

Mutton and lamb production in February totaled 64 million pounds. A month ago production was 72 million pounds or 11 percent less while in February a year ago output totaled 59 million pounds or 8 percent above that for February this year. February sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 1,318,200 head.

Poultry slaughter in February was 255 million pounds, ready-to-cook basis.

NORTH CAROLINA AND U. S. LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER*

SPECIES	FEBRUARY				JANUARY - FEBRUARY			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
N. C.	<i>Thous. Head</i>		<i>Thous. Lbs.</i>		<i>Thous. Head</i>		<i>Thous. Lbs.</i>	
Cattle	11.9	11.0	9,347	8,609	25.5	24.0	19,784	18,888
Calves	4.4	3.8	742	683	9.4	8.2	1,654	1,507
Sheep & Lambs	.1	.1	9	9	.2	.2	18	17
Hogs	56.0	57.0	12,265	12,607	119.0	123.0	25,737	27,256
TOTAL	72.4	71.9	22,363	21,908	154.1	155.4	47,193	47,668
U. S.	<i>Mil. Head</i>		<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>		<i>Mil. Head</i>		<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>	
Cattle	1.8	2.0	1,701	1,960	3.9	4.3	3,675	4,180
Calves	.9	.9	182	195	1.9	1.9	389	404
Sheep & Lambs	1.2	1.3	124	134	2.6	2.8	260	283
Hogs	5.8	7.1	1,366	1,639	12.7	15.2	3,021	3,533
TOTAL	9.7	11.3	3,373	3,928	21.1	24.2	7,345	8,400

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
S. R. Newell, Director

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COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES ^{1/}		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956	Feb. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956
	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Cotton, Lb.....	.3100	.3164	.3472	.3497	89	90
Wheat, Bu.....	1.95	1.97	2.38	2.39	82	82
Corn, Bu.....	1.18	1.20	1.73	1.74	68	69
Oats, Bu.....	.619	.618	.843	.849	73	73
Barley, Bu.....	.915	.925	1.32	1.33	69	70
Rye, Bu.....	.946	.985	1.65	1.66	57	59
Beef Cattle, Cwt.....	14.00	14.40	21.10	21.30	66	68
Hogs, Cwt.....	12.00	12.30	20.90	21.10	57	58
Lambs, Cwt.....	17.70	18.10	23.20	23.40	76	77
Chickens, All, Lb....	.210	.216	.280	.282	75	77
Eggs, Doz.....	.402	.396	.454	.457	103 ^{5/}	97 ^{5/}
Milk, Whlse. Cwt. ^{2/}	4.14 ^{3/}	3.96 ^{4/}	4.59	4.62	88 ^{5/}	87 ^{5/}

- ^{1/} Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect.
- ^{2/} Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.
- ^{3/} Revised.
- ^{4/} Preliminary.
- ^{5/} Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.